

## Supporting Client Outcomes

### **Objective:** Adequate quality resources are available for foster care, behavior rehabilitation services and adoption

Measured by: Licensed foster homes available to care for children

The Division of Licensed Resources (DLR) conducts a wide range of public outreach and educational activities designed to recruit and retain caring, quality families who are willing to share their homes with children in state care.

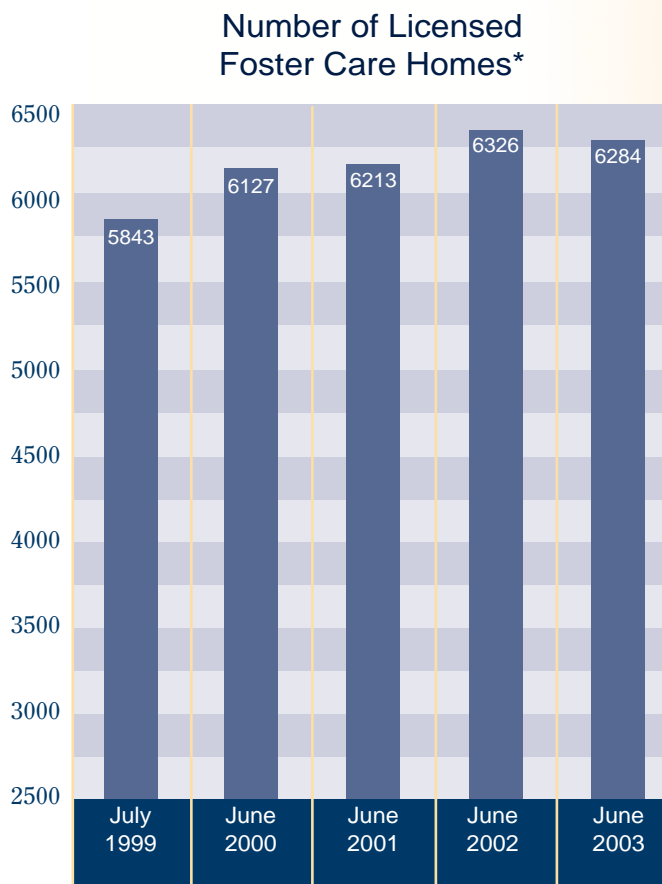
Becoming a foster parent is truly a labor of love, it is a volunteer role for which parents are compensated largely by the knowledge that they have made a difference in a child's life.

Foster parents receive monthly reimbursements meant to help offset the costs of caring for a child. In addition, children in Children's Administration care receive medical and dental coverage as well as other services related to any special needs they might have. As volunteers, foster parents must demonstrate adequate financial resources to be self-sustaining apart from monies paid for the care of foster children.

The Children's Administration has begun implementation of the Foster Care Improvement Plan (FCIP) which has as its major goal the recruitment and retention of additional foster parents. FCIP, based upon long range system changes, has developed a new recruitment system that utilizes current foster parents as recruiters for new foster parents. The plan also utilizes a school-based recruitment component as well as one that licenses law enforcement officers to provide foster care. FCIP is also strategizing new ways of retaining foster parents.

Following a steady increase in the number of total foster homes available to care for children, there was a slight decrease in fiscal year 2003. This decrease is thought to be due in part to the increased number of foster families adopting children as well as increased relative placements.

News Advisory, March 2004  
Performance Report, 2003



\*Number of DLR and Private Agency foster homes licensed to provide care